

P. O. Box 829
Carlsbad, New Mexico
June 8, 1960

MINE INSPECTION REPORT
JACKPILE MINE
UNITED PUEBLO AGENCY
LAGUNA PUEBLO RESERVATION

by
James W. Hager
Mining Engineer

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SE

Date: 6/25/13

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION

On May 25, 1960, I examined the Jackpile mine on the Laguna Indian Reservation. The mine, operated by the Anaconda Corporation, is located 8½ miles north of Laguna, Valencia County, New Mexico. The mine is serviced by a spur of the Santa Fe railroad. Mr. J. F. Herridon was mine superintendent, Mr. Paul Balintine was assistant mine superintendent. The last examination of the mine by engineers of this office was January 12, 1960.

The lease which was originally for 799.09 acres has been amended by agreements dated September 9, 1954 and November 27, 1957 to cover 3,679.09 acres. Plans for exercising the option to lease contained in the prospecting permit held by the Anaconda Company which covers the undeveloped Puguete orebody to the west of the Jack pile orebody, is being contemplated.

No changes in ore handling techniques have been instituted since date of last examination. All ore came from the open pit. The waste and ore was mechanically loaded into 22 ton capacity trucks, automatically analyzed by a scanning device described in the Geological Survey report of examination dated February 18, 1959 and directed to stockpiles of various grades.

Because of the contract with the Atomic Energy Commission under which the Anaconda Company operates, grade control is all important. The Atomic Energy Commission will only buy the amount of yellow cake specified under the terms of their contract, hence to assure the most economical and continuous operation of the company's Bluewater plant a very close control of the grade of feed is imperative.



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To assure a constant feed grade all ore to be shipped to the mill is blended from the stockpiles. The ore from the crusher is again radiometrically analyzed by a scanner over the belt from the crusher to the railroad cars. These results are relayed to the Bluewater plant where, if necessary, the ore may again be blended by dumping cars into one of four bins depending on analysis. The management stated that with this system the mill heads run within 2% of the calculated grade.

Mr. John Sabo is employed as safety engineer and divides his time between the Bluewater plant and the Jackpile mine. Mr. Sabo has prepared a safety booklet that has been distributed throughout the organization and has instituted the practice of giving safety awards after a specified number of days with no lost time accidents and for suggestions concerning safety that are adopted. The decrease in the accident rate since this system has been instituted has been encouraging.

The mine produced approximately 3000 tons of milling ore per day and about 5000 tons of low grade material that was being stockpiled at the mine in contemplation of a possible change in the economics of the uranium industry in the future. About 35,000 tons of waste were removed daily. There were 291 men employed at the mine, 26 supervisors and 265 on days pay. About 85% of the personnel were Indians.

No safety violations or other violations of the lease terms were observed on date of examination.

J. W. Hager
Mining Engineer

Orig. to: Supt., United Pueblo, Albuquerque
cc: Comm., Office of Indian Affairs
: Chief, Branch of Mining Operations
: Files